
Conference on Disarmament

28 August 2012

Original: English

Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of member States of G-21

Working paper

Nuclear Disarmament

1. The Group of 21 reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament is the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and in that context, the Group stresses that its highest priority on the CD agenda is nuclear disarmament.
2. The Group reiterates its deep concern at the danger posed to the survival of humankind by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use and proliferation will remain.
3. The Group reiterates its position as conveyed in its previous statements to the CD and recalls the Final Documents of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly - the First Special Session on Disarmament - and the 2009 Sharm-el-Sheikh Summit Declaration and Final Document of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Final Document of the 17th Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Sharm-el-Sheikh, in May 2012. We recall, in this regard, that the very first resolution of the United Nations General Assembly 1(1) of 1946, adopted unanimously, called for the elimination of nuclear weapons from national arsenals.
4. Furthermore, the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion of 1996, concluded that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.
5. The Millennium Declaration in 2000 also reaffirmed the commitment of Member States of the United Nations to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons.
6. The Group, while noting, the steps taken by nuclear-weapon States (NWS) for the reduction of their arsenals, reiterates its deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the NWS towards accomplishing the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The Group stresses the importance of effective implementation of concrete measures leading to a nuclear weapons free world.

7. The Group, stressing its strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, underscores the urgent need to commence negotiations on this issue, in the CD, without delay. In this context, the Group reaffirms its full readiness to start negotiations on a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including a nuclear-weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time.
8. In this regard, the Group emphasizes that fundamental principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility shall be applied to all nuclear disarmament measures.
9. The Group reaffirms that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing.
10. The G-21 emphasizes that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, in all its aspects, is essential to strengthening international peace and security. The Group reaffirms that efforts toward nuclear disarmament, global and regional approaches and confidence building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security.
11. The Group reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of such weapons, the Group reaffirms the urgent need to reach an early agreement on a universal, unconditional and, legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States (NNWS) against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
12. The Group expresses its concerns about strategic defence doctrines of NWS and a group of States which set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and in this regard, there is therefore a genuine and urgent need to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used again and to facilitate the process of their elimination. In this regard, the Group recalls its strong support of the objectives of the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/71 of 8 December 2010 on “Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons Systems”, as well as the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/66/48 of 2 December 2011 entitled “Reducing Nuclear Danger”.
13. The G-21 stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the CTBT, including by all NWS, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The Group reiterates that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the NWS, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.
14. The Group reaffirms the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and expresses its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in these areas. In this regard, the Group strongly supports the objectives of the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/66/32 of 2 December 2011 on the “Promotion of Multilateralism in the Area of Disarmament and Non-proliferation”.
15. The G21 States Parties to the NPT note with satisfaction the deliberations of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference that took place between 30 April and 11 May 2012 in Vienna. The G21 States Parties to the NPT call for the full implementation of the recommendations for follow-on actions adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference on all three pillars of the Treaty, including those related to the work of the CD, and the Middle East, particularly the implementation of the 1995

resolution on the Middle East. The G21 States Parties to the NPT re-emphasize the importance of the commitment of NWS to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and take note of the fact that NWS agreed to report on their undertakings related to nuclear disarmament to the 2014 Preparatory Committee, and that the 2015 Review Conference would take stock and consider next steps for the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty.

16. Regarding the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the G21 States Parties to the NPT welcome the initial steps taken towards realizing the follow-on actions agreed to during the 2010 NPT Review Conference for a process leading to the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. The G21 States Parties to the NPT recall that the 1995 Resolution was an essential element of the package of decisions adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty was indefinitely extended without a vote. They look forward to the successful convening of the 2012 Conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, welcome the efforts undertaken by the Conference Facilitator and call on the UN Secretary General and Co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East to continue to exert all efforts toward the success of the 2012 Conference. The G21 States Parties to the NPT also recall in this context the reaffirmation of the NPT 2010 Review Conference of the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

17. The Group reiterates its readiness to make constructive contributions to the work of the Conference, and in this regard wishes to recall the contents of documents CD/36/Rev.1; CD/116; CD/341; CD/819; CD/1388; CD/1462; CD/1570; CD/1571 and CD/1923, presented by the G-21 towards this end.

18. In view of the Group's strong commitment to nuclear disarmament and a world free of nuclear weapons, the G-21 reiterates the following concrete steps:

- Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of the NWS to accomplish the complete elimination of nuclear weapons;
- Elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines;
- Adoption of measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger, such as de-alerting of nuclear-weapons and decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear-weapons systems;
- Negotiation of a universal, unconditional and legally-binding instrument to assure NNWS against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
- Negotiation of a Convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
- Negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.